

U.S. Appl. No.: 09/931,345
Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

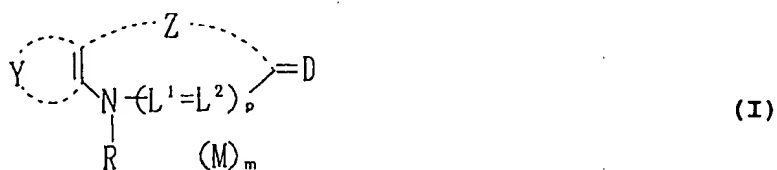
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A silver halide photographic material which comprises a silver halide emulsion containing silver halide grains that are sensitized with at least one sensitizing methine dye represented by the following formula (I) :



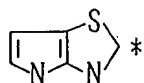
wherein Y represents a furan ring, and Y may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring, or may have a substituent; the bond between two carbon atoms in which Y is condensed may be a single bond or a double bond; Z represents an oxazole ring, a thiazole ring, an imidazole ring, a 2-pyridine ring or a 4-pyridine ring, and Z may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring; R represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, aryl group, or heterocyclic group; D represents a group necessary to form a sensitizing methine dye; L^1 and L^2 each represents a methine group; p represents 0 or 1 ; M represents a counter ion; and m represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 2. (currently amended): A silver halide photographic material which comprises a silver halide emulsion containing silver halide grains that are sensitized with at least one sensitizing methine dye represented by the following formula (I):

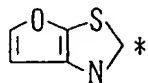


wherein Y represents an atomic group necessary to form a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic ring, and Y may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring, or may have a substituent; the bond between two carbon atoms in which Y is condensed may be a single bond or a double bond; Z represents an atomic group necessary to form a 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring, and Z may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring; R represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, aryl group, or heterocyclic group; D represents a group necessary to form a sensitizing methine dye; L¹ and L² each represents a methine group; p represents 0 or 1; M represents a counter ion; and m represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule; wherein the condensed ring containing Y and Z in the sensitizing methine dye represented by formula (I) is selected from the following Y-1 to Y-26, provided that Y-1 to Y-3 and Y-6 to Y-26 may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring, or may have a substituent:

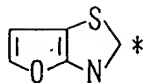
Y-1



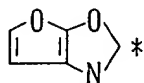
Y-2



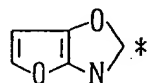
Y-3



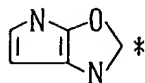
Y-6



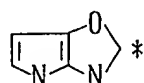
Y-7



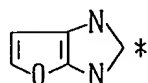
Y-8



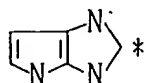
Y-9



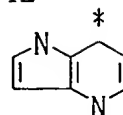
Y-10



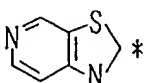
Y-11



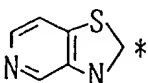
Y-12



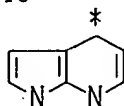
Y-13



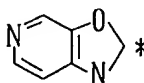
Y-14



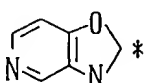
Y-15



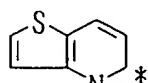
Y-16



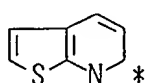
Y-17



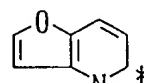
Y-18



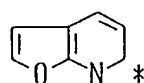
Y-19



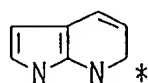
Y-20



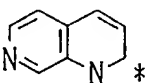
Y-21



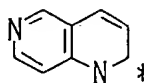
Y-22



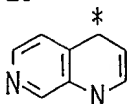
Y-23



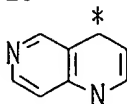
Y-24



Y-25

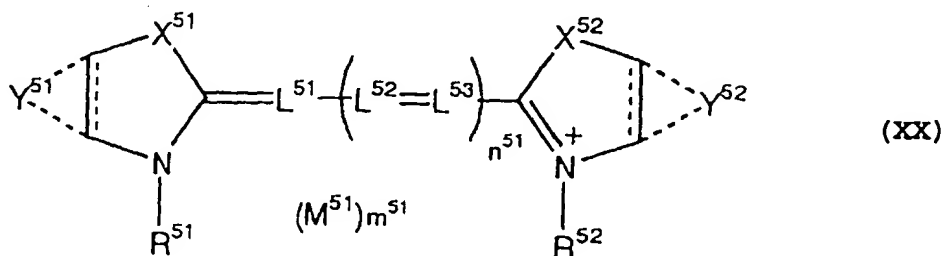


Y-26



Claim 3. (canceled).

Claim 4. (currently amended): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the methine dye represented by formula (I) is represented by the following formula (XX):

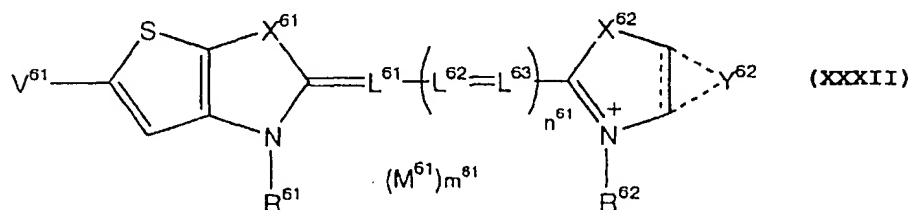
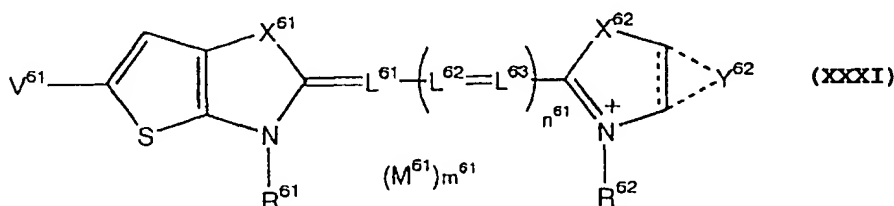


wherein Y^{51} represents a furan ring which may be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which Y^{51} is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond; X^{51} represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a nitrogen atom and X^{52} each represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a selenium atom, a tellurium atom or a nitrogen atom; Y^{52} represents an atomic group necessary to form a benzene ring or a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic ring, which may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which Y^{52} is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond; R^{51} and R^{52} each represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; L^{51} ,

L^{52} and L^{53} each represents a methine group; n^{51} represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; M^{51} represents a counter ion; and m^{51} represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 5. (canceled).

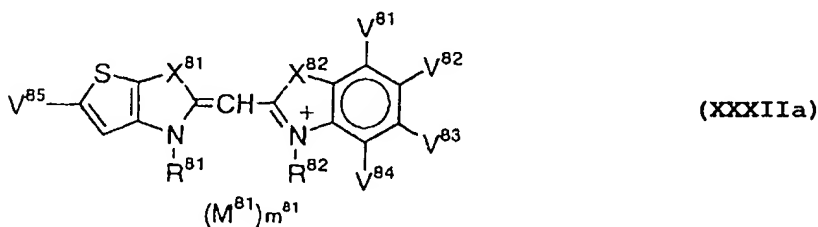
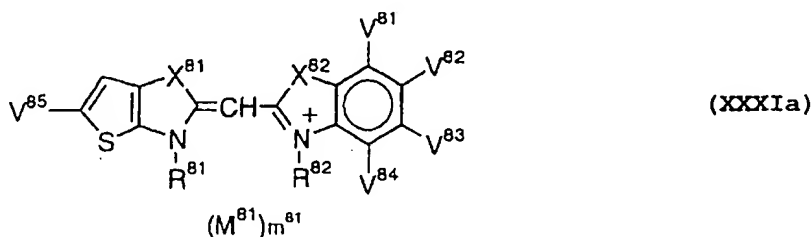
Claim 6. (previously presented): A silver halide photographic material which comprises at least one methine dye represented by the following formula (XXXI) or (XXXII):



wherein L^{61} , L^{62} and L^{63} each represents a methine group; V^{61} represents a halogen atom; X^{61} represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a nitrogen atom; X^{62} represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a selenium atom, a nitrogen atom, or a carbon atom; Y^{62} represents an atomic group necessary to form a benzene ring or a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic ring, which may be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which Y^{62} is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond; R^{61} and R^{62} each represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a

substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; n^{61} represents 0 or 1; M^{61} represents a counter ion; and m^{61} represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 7. (original): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 6, wherein the methine dye represented by formula (XXXI) or (XXXII) is represented by the following formula (XXXIa) or (XXXIIa):

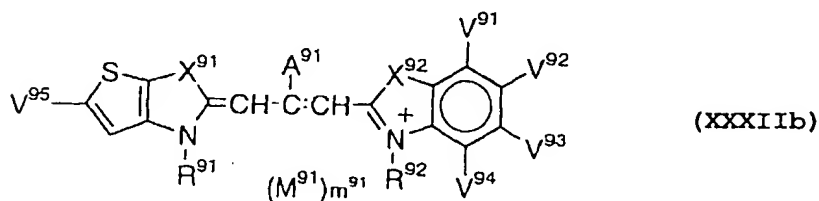
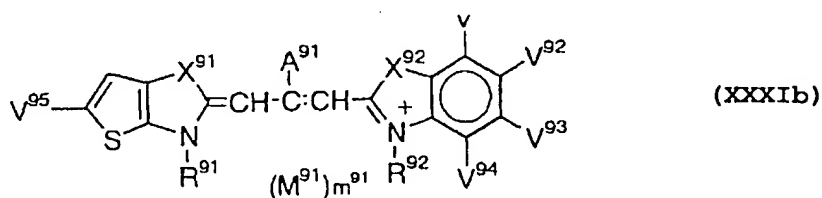


wherein V^{85} represents a halogen atom; X^{81} and X^{82} each represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; R^{81} and R^{82} each represents an alkyl group substituted with an acid radical; V^{81} , V^{82} , V^{83} and V^{84} each represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; M^{81} represents a counter ion; and m^{81} represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 8. (original): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 7, wherein in the methine dye represented by formula (XXXIa) or (XXXIIa), at least either R^{81} or

R^{82} represents an alkyl group substituted with a carboxyl group or an alkanesulfonylcarbamoyl group, and the other represents an alkyl group substituted with a sulfo group.

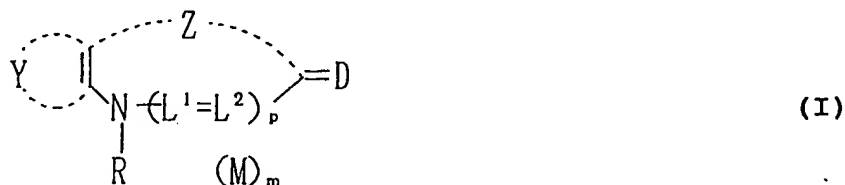
Claim 9. (original): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 6, wherein the methine dye represented by formula (XXXI) or (XXXII) is represented by the following formula (XXXIb) or (XXXIIb):



wherein V^{95} represents a halogen atom; X^{91} and X^{92} each represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; R^{91} and R^{92} each represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; A^{91} represents a methyl group, an ethyl group or a propyl group; V^{91} , V^{92} , V^{93} and V^{94} each represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; M^{91} represents a counter ion; and m^{91} represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 10. (withdrawn): A methine dye represented by formula (XXXIa), (XXXIIa), (XXXIb) or (XXXIIb).

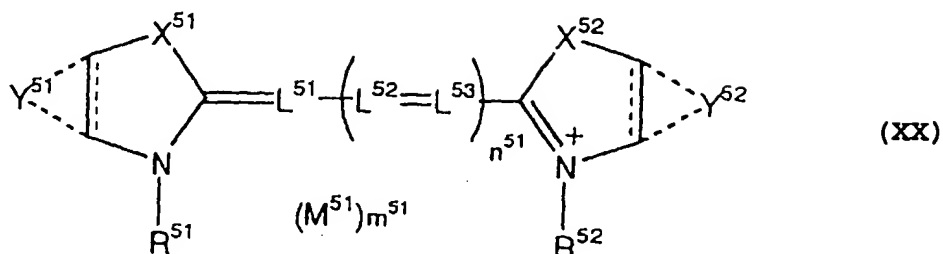
Claim 11. (previously presented): A silver halide photographic material which comprises at least one sensitizing methine dye represented by the following formula (I) :



wherein Y represents a pyrrole ring, and Y may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring, or may have a substituent; the bond between two carbon atoms in which Y is condensed may be a single bond or a double bond; Z represents an oxazole ring, a thiazole ring, an imidazole ring, a 2-pyridine ring or a 4-pyridine ring, and Z may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring; R represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, aryl group, or heterocyclic group; D represents a group necessary to form a sensitizing methine dye; L¹ and L² each represents a methine group; p represents 0 or 1 ; M represents a counter ion; and m represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 12. (previously presented): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 11, wherein Z represents an oxazole ring, a thiazole ring, an imidazole ring, a 2-pyridine ring or a 4-pyridine ring.

Claim 13. (previously presented): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 11, wherein the methine dye represented by formula (I) is represented by the following formula (XX):



wherein Y^{51} represents a pyrrole ring which may be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which Y^{51} is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond; X^{51} and X^{52} each represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a nitrogen atom; Y^{52} represents an atomic group necessary to form a benzene ring or a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic ring, which may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which Y^{52} is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond; R^{51} and R^{52} each represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; L^{51} , L^{52} and L^{53} each represents a methine group; n^{51} represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; M^{51} represents a counter ion; and m^{51} represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.